Society for Participatory Research in Asia

Activity Report for 1983

1. Participatory Research

1. The study on 'The Role of Adult Education in Community Involvement in Primary Health Care' was completed. Coordinated on behalf of International Council for Adult Education, the final report of the study has been prepared including abridged case studies from Canada (native communities), Chile, India, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania and Venezuela. The report is being published by International Council for Adult Education in early 1984.

2. The Society has completed the study on 'Impact of the Present Forest Policy on Forest Dwellers' in Himachal Pradesh. It was carried out in collaboration with State Social Work and Research Centre, Chopal (Simla district) and National Adult Education Programme of H.P. University (Chamba and Mandi districts). The report of the study and a popular document in Hindi are being published in early 1984.

The Society also assisted in the preparation and planning of a similar Forest Study being carried out in Orissa by Indian Social Institute, New Delhi in collaboration with nine fieldbased action groups.
3. In collaboration with the Institute for Development Research, Boston, USA, study of 'Personnel Management and Human Resources in the Integrated Rural Health and Population Project' in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh was conducted.

4. A study on the Impact of Integrated Child Development Scheme of Government of India was undertaken in two districts of Uttar Pradesh.

5. In collaboration with International Council for Adult Education, a study of Participatory Research, Evaluation and Training efforts in India has been initiated. To be carried out in collaboration with several partner groups, the study aims to critically examine some concrete experiences in relation to its professed characteristics of local control, empowerment, popular knowledge and authenticity. Field work for the study will be undertaken during 1984.

6. Partly as a follow up of the experiences of Forest Studies and partly in response to specific requests by some field groups, the Society has planned a study on 'Land Ownership and Alienation.' To be carried out in collaboration with several field organizations, the study intends to focus on the nature, pattern, consequences and possible actions of land alienation in the country, particularly among tribal communities. Field work for the study will be undertaken during 1984. Material preparation and ground work was done this year.

7. In consultation with several activists and workers, the Society has initiated a study on 'Worker Awareness and Occupational Health'. The study aims at understanding workers' experiences and responses to occupational health problems with a view to raising their awareness of these issues. While planning and some material preparation was undertaken this year, much of the field work is to be done in 1984.
8. Several consultations were undertaken with different field based groups and organizations in helping them plan their own participatory research efforts. Some of these were:

(a) *Streevani*, a women's research project based in Pune was provided assistance in planning and analysing their five participatory research efforts among urban and rural women.

(b) The health education project of *Aga Khan Central Health Board*, Bombay was assisted in planning a participatory research component of the project.

(c) *Programme for Community Organization*, Trivandrum was consulted to incorporate Participatory Research in their evaluation of fishermen cooperatives.

II. Participatory Evaluation

1. The report of participatory evaluation of Abner Non-Formal Education Project (now Ankur), New Delhi was finalized.

2. The participatory evaluation of Shramik Sangathan, Maharashtra has been completed and report prepared. The evaluation focused upon the role of tribals in organizing themselves prior to the emergence of the Sangathan.

3. In collaboration with Indian Social Institute, participatory evaluation of Gram Vikas, Orissa was intensively undertaken. The evaluation focused upon the achievements and shortcomings, future directions, strategies and tactics, organizational form, structures of work and planning of programmes. Training of core staff in skills related to such evaluation and planning facilitated their initiating similar exercises with the tribals and their organization.

4. The guidelines of participatory evaluation evolved through a workshop in 1982 were field tested with Gram Vikas,
Orissa, Village Community Development Association and Streevani, Pune.

5. The Development Education (DEEDS) project of Caritas Bangladesh was evaluated in collaboration with local resource persons. It focused upon the impact, staffing, organization, methodology and strategy of the project in building groups of the rural poor in Bangladesh.

6. The non-formal educational programmes with pavement dwellers of Bombay of Nagpada Neighborhood House became the focus for exploring participatory evaluation processes. More intensive involvement is envisaged in 1984.

7. Exploratory discussions have been undertaken to initiate participatory evaluation of field-based groups of Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Field visits and planning workshop are planned for 1984.

III. Participatory Training

1. Activists and leaders of Mewar Krishak Mandal were trained in collaboration with Seva Mandir, Udaipur. Its focus comprised of dynamics of power and control within and outside the organization.

2. Seva Mandir field workers of three blocks of Udaipur were involved in a weeklong training programme. It entailed learning practical skills of organizing as well as training of trainers.

3. Under the ongoing training programme of Shramik Bharati, Kanpur, the executive members of workers’ cooperatives were trained in effectively managing the cooperative.

4. Fieldworkers of State Social Work and Research Centre, Chopal (Simla) and adult education instructors of NAEP
from Chamba and Mandi districts in Himachal Pradesh were trained in participatory research methodology for forest studies.

5. Under the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) programme of Government of India and in collaboration with UNICEF, the Society assisted in developing a training strategy and training of trainers programme.

Besides, it assisted Seva Mandir, Udaipur in training Mukhya Sevikas and Gram Sevikas of Rajasthan's DWCRA programme.

6. The Society assisted Drinking Water Project in Puri, Cuttack and Balasore districts of Orissa, being supported by Danida, in evolving its training strategy and educational approach.

7. Exploratory consultations were held with several field based groups in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh to identify their training needs. Some training programmes are being evolved for them in 1984.

IV. Workshops and Seminars

1. A meeting of partners and like-minded people was held at Dehradun, April 22-24, 1983. Attended by 23 representatives of 17 organizations, it deliberated on critical questions of participatory research and reviewed role and activities of the Society for Participatory Research in Asia.

2. A workshop of case study writers for the study on 'The Role of Adult Education in Community Involvement in Primary Health Care' was held at Peterborough, Canada during July 4-8, 1983. Eighteen participants from twelve countries analysed the case studies collectively and planned the next phase of the programme.
A seminar on the theme was given to the staff of SIDA and Sarec, Stockholm.

3. A discussion on participatory research was held at Dhaka, Bangladesh on October 21, 1983. Twenty-two representatives of various voluntary organizations participated.

4. A workshop on 'Women and Drama' was organized in May 1983 to focus on the questions of women's role through theatre.

5. The members of the Society participated in Kriti workshop on women's creative expressions held in New Delhi, May 1983.

6. An Asian regional workshop on 'Participatory Research: A Response to Asian People's Struggles for Social Transformation' was organized at Manila, Philippines, December 1-12, 1983 in collaboration with Regional Institute of Community Education, Farmers Assistance Bureau and PARUD, Philippines. Thirty-five participants from six countries were involved in sharing experiences and analysing their practice. Discussions on networking and Asian network were also undertaken.

7. Several short seminars on Participatory Research were given by members of the Society:

   a) Action Groups in Bangalore
   b) ASPBAE Region 1 meeting in Sri Lanka
   c) Faculty of Education, University of Sri Lanka
   d) Action groups in Baroda
   e) Centre for Social Studies, Dhaka University
   f) Proshika, Bangladesh
   g) Nagpada Neighborhood House, Bombay
   h) Nirmala Niketan, Bombay
i) Shodhana, Tata Institute of Social Science, Bombay
j) DVV, Bonn, West Germany
k) Institute of Social Work and Community Development, Manila

V. Publication

1. The quarterly Newsletter was regularly brought out during the year and since it was found useful by network members as reflected in the feedback received, it is being continued.

2. As part of international networking, two issues of Network Memo were brought out as ongoing service to regional, subregional and national coordinators.

3. Under collaboration with UNICEF New Delhi, the following didactical bulletins were prepared in both English and Hindi:
   
   (a) How to conduct Participatory Research with rural women?

   (b) How to organize women's groups?

   (c) How to communicate effectively with grass-roots women?

   These are being printed by UNICEF.

4. Hindi translation of 'Participatory Training for Rural Development' edited by Om Shrivastava and Rajesh Tandon was published.

5. Several documents were prepared in mimeo form:
   
   (a) 'Participatory Evaluation of Abner Non-formal Education Project', Anita Dighe and Rajesh Tandon.

   (b) 'Participatory Evaluation of Shramik Sangathan', Vijay P. Kanhere.
(c) 'Training of Trainers: An Experience', Seemantinee Khot.

VI. Networking

1. Following various consultations in the Asian Region, the network coordination function has been decentralised and widely shared.

2. Several international events strengthened the networks of Participatory Research during the year:

(a) Meeting of some regional coordinators at Toronto in July 1983.

(b) Meeting of some regional coordinators at Baghdad in November 1983.

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Though much of the time and effort in 1982 was spent in setting up the Society, still some concrete work was undertaken during the year. Moreover, many important beginnings have been made and the coming year may be full of activity. Major activities of the Society during 1982 were:

I. Participatory Research
1. A major study, in ten countries, on ‘The Role of Adult Education in Community Involvement in Primary Health Care’ was designed and coordinated, on behalf of International Council for Adult Education. Besides preparation of proposal and guidelines for the study and coordination in different countries, the Society also undertook the preparation of case study in India. Other countries involved are Philippines, Indonesia, Kenya, Tanzania, Senegal, Nicaragua, Chile, Venezuela and Canada (among native communities). Most case studies will be ready by early 1983 and final report prepared by summer 1983.

To make intensive study on this theme in India, 5 additional case studies are being prepared in collaboration with projects in different parts of the country. Most of the field data collection will be undertaken in 1983.

2. The Society has begun a major study of the ‘Impact of the Present Forest Policy on Forest Dwellers’ in Himachal
Pradesh. Being carried out in active collaboration with local development promoting groups and forest dwellers, the study is expected to not only generate authentic and significant data base but also raise awareness of local groups and forest-dwellers. Social Work and Research Centre, Jagjit Nagar is an initial partner and other groups are being contacted in HP. The study, begun in October 1982, is of one year duration.

3. The analysis and documentation of participatory development efforts was initiated through a case study of Uttarakhand Sangharsh Vahini. This initial contact has led to further launching of a study similar to the one in HP in the hills of Uttar Pradesh. Preparation for the study were begun and it is likely to be undertaken during 1983.

4. Under the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade Programmes, a field survey of 15 Non-governmental organisations was undertaken in collaboration with Council for Social Development, New Delhi and UNDP. The Survey focused upon the areas of expertise of NGOs and also explored mechanisms for collaboration with the government programmes. The Survey was followed by a consultation meeting in Delhi during November 9-11, 1982 between participating NGOs, government and UN agencies, which was also facilitated by the survey team.

II. Participatory Evaluation

1. The participatory evaluation of Abner Inter School and Non-Formal Education Project, New Delhi was initiated and completed during the year. The methodology of participatory evaluation was further refined in the process.

2. A major year-long participatory evaluation effort of Shramik Sangathana, Maharashtra has been undertaken. The exercise is expected to be completed in summer 1983.

3. The work of cluster and zonal workers of Kherwara block of Seva Mandir, Udaipur was evaluated through an intensive workshop.

4. Preliminary discussions on participatory evaluation of Gram Vikas, Orissa were undertaken. A major involvement with Gram Vikas is envisaged in 1983.
5. The textile workers education field project of Vikas, New Delhi was evaluated alongwith local activists.

III. Participatory Training
1. Seva Mandir field workers from two blocks of Udaipur were involved in a weeklong training programme. Besides developing a conceptual understanding of the new strategy of Seva Mandir, they were also trained in practical skills for community organising. A series of repeat programmes are planned in 1983.

2. Training of activists and educators of Shramik Bharati, Kanpur had been undertaken under an overall plan of cadre-building which will be ongoing.

3. Field workers of SWRC Jagjitanagar were trained in participatory research methodology. More intensive training of that group is being planned.

Major training requests have been received for 1983 from other development promoting groups.

IV. Workshops
1. Alongwith Indian Social Institute and twelve other organisations, the Society collaborated in organising and conducting a major national workshop on ‘Tribals and Forests’ during 12-14 April 1982. The Society is also involved in the post workshop follow-up which is continuing.

2. An informal consultation with like-minded professionals and field based development groups was organised during October 2-3, 1982 to discuss the strategy for the Society. An agenda for the work of the Society was evolved. More such consultations and reviews are planned in 1983.

3. Along with World Literacy of Canada and Seva Mandir Udaipur, the Society planned and organised a workshop in Hyderabad entitled ‘Education for People's Development’ during November 22-14, 1982. Guidelines for participatory evaluation are being developed to be experimented with in 1983.

V. Publications
1. The first issue of the quarterly Newsletter was brought out as an ongoing service.
2. Under collaboration with ICAE, a participatory Research Network series was published by the Society:
   a) 'Creating Knowledge: A Monopoly?' edited by Budd Hall, Arthur Gillette and Rajesh Tandon.
   b) 'Participatory Research: An Emerging Alternative Methodology in Social Science Research,' edited by Yusuf Kassam and Kemal Mustafa.
   c) 'Participatory Research: An Introduction.'
3. Besides, the Society published
   'Participatory Training for Rural Development' edited by Om Shrivastava and Rajesh Tandon.
4. Several learning materials were developed in Hindi language. Besides, 'Participatory Research: An Introduction' is being translated in Hindi, Marathi, Oriya and Telugu.
5. A Select Bibliography on current materials on Participatory Research was compiled and published.
6. ILO has approached the Society for collaboration in publishing with Oxford & IBH Publishers some of their future materials on themes related to the interests of the Society.
7. As part of ICAE Primary Health Care Programme, a special issue of Convergence on this theme was edited.

VI Networking
1. The work of strengthening Asian Regional network was pursued further during the year.
2. Several international events strengthened the networks of Participatory Research during the year:
   a) Meeting of Regional Coordinators in Mexico where the Asian Regional Coordinator was asked to take over international coordination on a rotation basis.
   b) The ICAE General Conference in Paris provided an opportunity for further discussions on PR networks and a special workshop on PR was organised during the conference.

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